

## SESSION EIGHT

# When Life Hurts and Trouble Comes

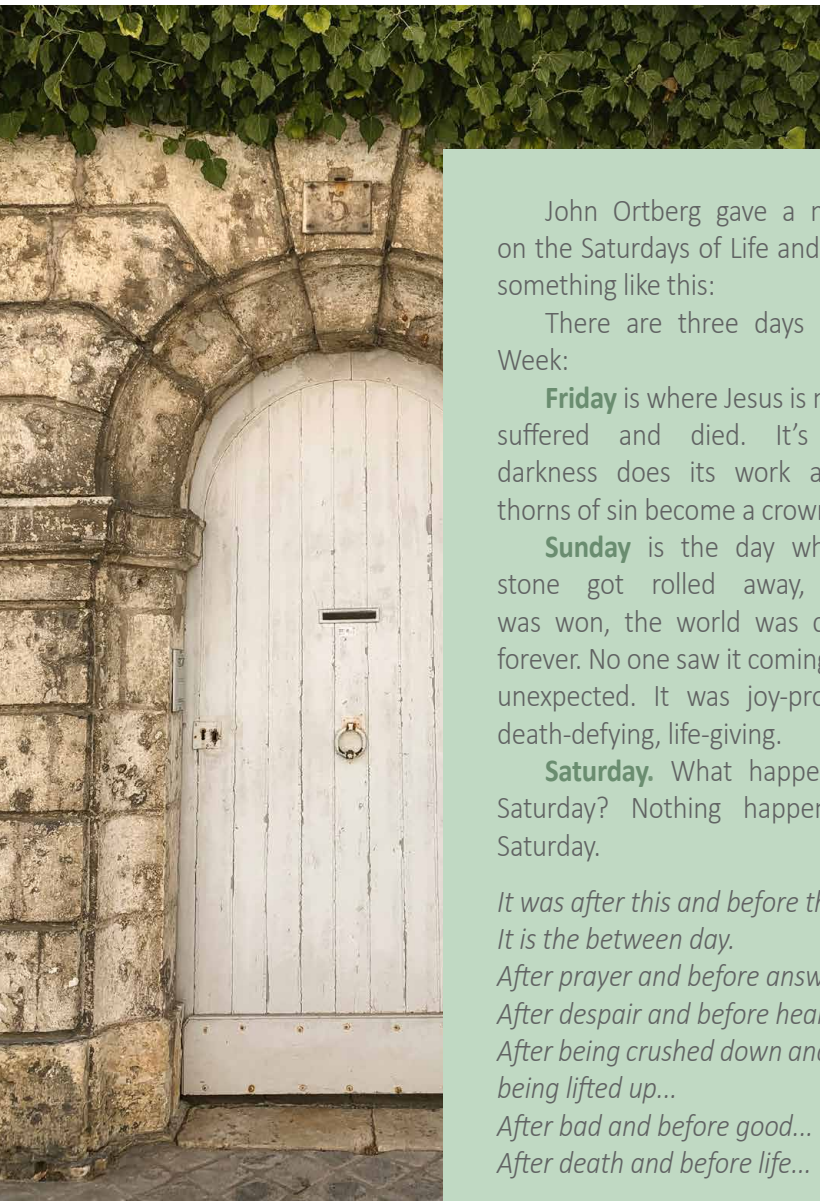
PRAYING WITH OTHERS | LEVEL TWO



## SESSION EIGHT

# When Life Hurts and Trouble Comes

## THE DOORWAY



John Ortberg gave a message on the Saturdays of Life and it went something like this:

There are three days of Holy Week:

**Friday** is where Jesus is mocked, suffered and died. It's where darkness does its work and the thorns of sin become a crown.

**Sunday** is the day when the stone got rolled away, victory was won, the world was changed forever. No one saw it coming. It was unexpected. It was joy-producing, death-defying, life-giving.

**Saturday.** What happened on Saturday? Nothing happened on Saturday.

*It was after this and before that.*

*It is the between day.*

*After prayer and before answers...*

*After despair and before healing...*

*After being crushed down and before being lifted up...*

*After bad and before good...*

*After death and before life...*

It's when the best dreams have died and you have to go on. And in addition to pain, you also know the silence of God.

Some of you have prayed with people on a Saturday. You've all known them yourself because they roll around regularly. Maybe you are in a Saturday right now and trusting that Sunday will come.

Friday and Sunday are the most written about days in history. Does anyone think about Saturday?

What did the disciples do on Saturday morning when they woke up and the screaming for blood they heard on Friday is now silent?

Did they remember his teaching? The way he said, "I want you?" Did they think about what went wrong?

**Friday**—things got paid for

**Sunday**—things brought to life

**Saturday**—the day without a name, God's silence, when nothing happens...in addition to pain, there was the seeming absence of God.

On the Saturday of Holy Week, Jesus was dead, the crowds had disbanded, and as Ortberg said, "He didn't say the 23rd Psalm from the cross." He said, "Why have you forsaken me?"

The thing about a 3rd day story is that you don't know it's a 3rd day story until....



## The Third Day

Because the pattern of a 3rd day story is:

- 1—Trouble
- 2—
- 3—Deliverance

## What is your Saturday?

...illness, waiting on direction, on healing, on a plan, the person you love turn to faith, a dream yet to be realized, on comfort, truth or wisdom...

## Options for Saturday

There are 3 options for Saturday:

**Despair:** You decide it will always be Friday

**Denial:** Artificial optimism, clichéd formulas

**Wait:** Wait on the Lord. You do Saturday with God. You learn and ask and complain. And it is not passive.

You can be with God on Saturday in a way you can't any other day; because on Saturday you know He is your only hope. Our world is a Saturday world. Now we think of Sunday as the miracle day. From heaven's standpoint, is the miracle Saturday? The day when we pray with people/ wait together/ hope unabashedly with no seen activity? Consider this: Jesus defeats death not by His invincibility, but by submitting to it. If you can find Jesus in a grave, in hell, in death, then there isn't a place you can't find Him. Wherever you are, He says he is there in your pain, hurt, disappointment, guilt, in regret.

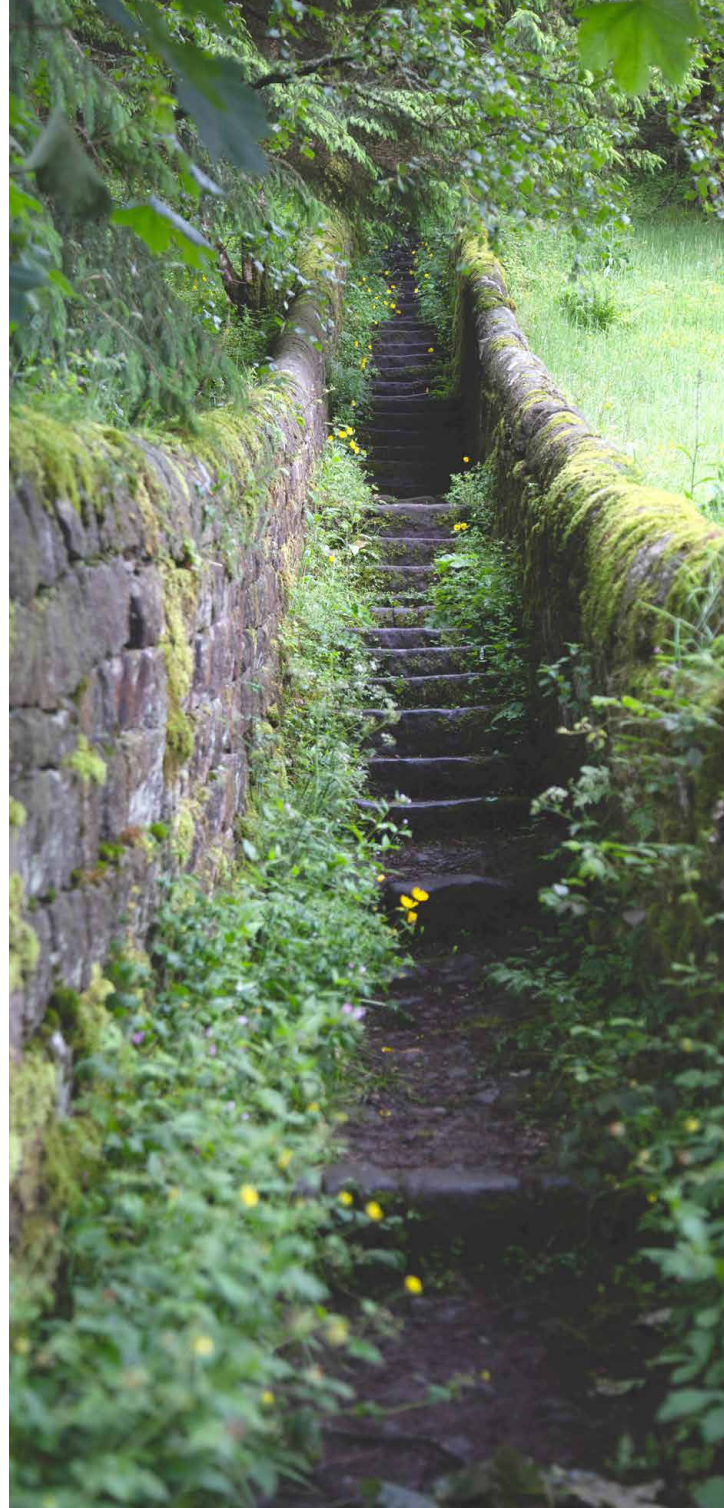
It's not the end.

It's only Saturday.

In prayer ministry we hold onto Jesus with the people we pray for and remember that:

It is a 3 day story.

The invitation is simply more—MORE of God.





# STUDY

How do you feel about being with people in their "Saturdays?"

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Comment on the phrase, "You can be with God on Saturday in a way you can't any other day, because on Saturday you know He is your only hope."

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Are you in a "Saturday" right now? Name your Saturday.

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How do you "submit" to a "Saturday"?

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# Jehovah–Jireh: The Lord Will Provide



Jehovah-Jireh means "The Lord will provide". It means "The Lord sees and sees to it." God revealed Himself as the Lord who would provide way back in Genesis. Abraham was about ready to sacrifice his son Isaac on an altar at the top of a desolate mountain in the land of Moriah. We know

## יְהוָה יֵרָאֶה

it was desolate because when they reached the base of the mountain, Abraham took with him the wood, fire, and knife that would be needed to complete the sacrifice. He must have known none of those things would be found at the top. He also took Isaac who was to BE the sacrifice and left two servants behind.

When they were near the top, Isaac said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering? And Abraham said, 'God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering.' Just as Abraham was about to kill his son, the Lord stopped him and showed him a ram caught in a thicket and told him to use that instead. God had placed that ram nearby in advance, knowing He was going to need a substitute for Isaac.

After the sacrifice was complete, Abraham named the place "The Lord Will Provide," which in Hebrew is YHWH-jireh. "Jireh" translates into "Provide," which is a word with wonderful Latin roots. Pro means "before" and video means "to see." So it means to see in advance or before what is needed. God is preparing an answer before we know that it is a need. See Genesis 22:1-14.

## DISCUSSION



Have you experienced a time when the Lord provided what you needed before you knew you needed it?

# MINISTRY

## Lectio Divina—Naming Our Desires

Recall the story of Bartimaeus when Jesus asks, "What do you need?" How important is it to name our needs? Desire is an invitational word and an enticing word. It's interesting that throughout scripture Jesus asks people to name what they need even though He would know. There is something in naming our desires that is important to Him. Read the story three times.

### MARK 10:46-52

#### Blind Bartimaeus

*<sup>46</sup>Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

*<sup>48</sup>Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

*<sup>49</sup>Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."*

*So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." <sup>50</sup>Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.*

*<sup>51</sup>"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.*

*The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."*

*<sup>52</sup>"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.*

*Imagine yourself in the story...*

*Sitting on a dusty road...*

*Calling out to Jesus from the noisy crowd...*

*Hearing voices trying to silence you...*

*Being called by Jesus...*

*Throwing off your cloak and running to Jesus...*

#### Read Mark 10:46-52 again.

Where do you find yourself in the story of Bart? In the crowd? Sitting by the road? Able to cry out?

What words do you cry out? Does anyone try to silence you?

When Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" what do you say in response?

What do you need to throw off in order to come to Jesus?

#### Read Mark 10:46-52 again.

What does Jesus say to you in response to your desire?

How does it feel to be asked and invited to pay attention to desire?

What about "throwing off his cloak? Is there anything you need to "throw off?"

What part of the story do you relate to most strongly or even resist most strongly?



O God, you alone know the depths of each human heart;  
Grant us the grace to know our heart's truest desire.  
Grant that we may take delight in you, oh Lord,  
Trusting you with all our hearts,  
As we hold our desires openly in your presence  
And in each other's presence,  
Grant us the courage to cry out to you;  
Grant us the faith to be still  
And know that you are God  
That we might wait patiently for you to act,  
in our own lives and in each others' lives.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen

## RESOURCES

### Books

#### ***Prayer Toolbox***

#### ***The Question That Never Goes Away: Why?***

Philip Yancey

#### ***When Life Hurts: Finding Hope and Healing from the Pain You Carry***

by Jimmy Evans

#### ***The Problem of Pain***

by C. S. Lewis

#### ***Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts***

by Jerry Bridges

### Videos

#### **Louie Giglio-Hope:**

#### **When Life Hurts Most**

by Louie Giglio [GodTube]

#### **John Ortberg 12/9 AM-Staff Conference 2014**

by John Ortberg [Vimeo]

#### **Prayer Invitation**

by Third Church [YouTube]

(also found at [trcpella.com/prayer](http://trcpella.com/prayer))

#### **Holy Saturday April 15 2017**

(teaching by Jon Hietbrink)

by Third Church [YouTube]

